

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

- Claims 6-7, 11 and 12 are pending in the Application after entry of this amendment.
- Claims 6-7, 11 and 12 are rejected by Examiner.
- Claims 6, 11, and 12 are amended by Applicant.

Claim Rejections Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 6, 7, 11 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by over U.S. Patent No. 6,005,869 to Sakai et al. (Sakai). Applicant traverses the rejection via amendment and argument.

Claims 6, 11 and 12 are amended to clarify that the current invention operates in a parallel bus environment, and that each node transmits the token to the next node, but the transmission of the token is received by all nodes in parallel such that each node of the network can follow the circulation of the token. Support for this amendment is found in the as-filed specification in the topology of Figure 1 and the description of message type M5 described on pages 6-7 of the specification which is a message that sends a token from one node to another but that is also received by all other nodes on the parallel bus.

Sakai discloses a communication network that is a daisy chain type of connection between nodes. See Sakai Figures 1, 5, 8-12, 14, 19-24, 29, and 31. In Sakai, a token is passed serially from a Master node to a next node and then onto the next node in a serial manner because Sakai does not teach the use of a parallel bus. Applicant respectfully submits that Sakai fails to discuss a system where the transmission of a token from one node to another is received by all nodes in a parallel manner as recited in amended independent Claims 6, 11, and 12.

Since Sakai does not discuss the aspect of transmission of a token from one node to a next node such that the token transmission is received by all nodes in parallel,

then Sakai cannot anticipate the pending amended claims under 35 U.S.C. §102 per MPEP §2131. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection of pending Claims 6, 7, 11, and 12 because these claims patentably define over the cited art.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims patentably define over the cited art and respectfully requests continued examination, reconsideration, and withdrawal of all rejections of the pending claims. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration for a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims based on the amendments and arguments presented above.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 07-0832 therefore.

Respectfully submitted,
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